

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 DLOS-04 OFA-01

FMC-02 /093 W

----- 053010

R 251000Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5435

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0709

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC NEWSPAPER TRANSLATIONS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCLANT FROM COMICEDEFOR JUNE 23 REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

P R 231520Z JUN 75

FM COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC

TO RUCBSAA/CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

INFO RUCBSAA/CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

RUCBSAA/LANTCOMOSUPPFAC NORFOLK VA

RUEBNEB/COMOCEANSYSLANT NORFOLK VA

RUDISDF/AMEMB REYKJAVIK IC

UNCLAS //N03800//

ICELANDIC NEWSPAPER TRANSLATIONS

A. ADMIN COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC 191415Z JUN 75

B. ADMIN COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC 202040Z JUN 75

1. SUMMARY: PRESS REACTION CONTINUES ON A LOWER KEY, COMPLICATED
BY THE RETRIEVAL ON 20 JUNE OF A SOVIET LISTENING DEVICE IDENTICAL
TO THE FOUR ALREADY WASHED ASHORE IN ICELAND THIS YEAR. FIRST
PICTORIAL REPRESENTATION OF THE CABLE SECTION IN PUBLIC MEDIA
OCCURRED

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2015 ON 20 JUNE ON ICELANDIC TELEVISION NEWSCAST. SECTION HAD BEEN

PEELED BACK IN LAYERS TO SHOW CONSTRUCTION. IT WAS IDENTIFIED AS A COMMUNICATIONS CABLE, OTHER COMMENT SIMILAR TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS. TV ACCOUNT TERMINATED WITH SPECULATION THAT THE CABLE WAS RELATED TO PREVIOUSLY FOUND LISTENING DEVICES (THE LATEST SOVIET DEVICE HAD NOT BEEN REPORTED TO TV BY NEWS TIME). COMPLETE NEWSPAPER STORIES FROM 21-22 JUNE FOLLOW:

2. MORGUNBLADID 22 JUNE 1975 (INDEPENDENCE PARTY NEWSPAPER).

A RUSSIAN BUOY FOUND ADRIFT AT KRYSUVIKURBJARG: THE CREW OF THE TRAWLER KARI GK 146 FROM GRINDAVIK FOUND A RUSSIAN LISTENING DEVICE ADRIFT IN HAELSVIK, WHICH IS WESTERNMOST IN KRYSUVIKURBJARG, LAST FRIDAY. THEY TOOK THE BUOY ON BOARD AND BROUGHT IT TO GRINDAVIK THE SAME EVENING. THE BUOY WAS TAKEN FOR SAFE KEEPING BY THE GRINDAVIK POLICE NIGHT BEFORE LAST BUT YESTERDAY MORNING THE BUOY WAS TAKEN FOR STORAGE AT KEFLAVIK AIRPORT, AT THE REQUEST OF THE TOWN BOILIFF OF KEFLAVIK. THIS IS THE FIFTH RUSSIAN LISTENING BUOY WHICH DRIFTS TO SHORE HERE DURING THIS YEAR. GUDFINNUR BERGSSON, MORGUNBLADID'S REPORTER IN GRINDAVIK, INFORMED THE PAPER YESTERDAY THAT THE SHIP HAD BEEN FISHING OFF KRYSUVIKURBJARG DURING FRIDAY. IN THE AFTERNOON THE FISHING SHIP MOVED

INTO HAELSVIK, WHERE THE CREW SAW THE BUOY DRIFTING AND RECOVERED IT FROM THE SEA. ACCORDING TO GUDFINNUR THIS BUOY IS EXACTLY THE SAME TYPE AS THE BUOYS WHICH WERE FOUND EARLIER DURING THIS YEAR AND OF WHICH PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPERS, BUT THOSE BUOYS ARE OF RUSSIAN ORIGIN. ON THIS LATEST BUOY ALL THE SOUND SENSORS ARE BROKEN OFF. GUDFINNUR SAID, THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO LETTERING VISIBLE ON THE BUOY BUT HARD TO READ NUMERALS HAD BEEN ENGRAVED IN IT. FROM THE APPEARANCE OF THE BUOY GUDFINNUR EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE BUOY HAD NOT BEEN IN THE SEA FOR A VERY LONG TIME. THE CAPTAIN OF THE KARI GK IS OSKAR GISLASON. ARTICLE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE-COLUMN PHOTO OF THE DEVICE.

3. THJODVILJINN 21 JUNE 1975 (PEOPLES ALLIANCE NEWSPAPER)

WAS THE NAVAL SHIP AMERICAN? THE MATTER IS BEING INVESTIGATED HERE-ASSERTS THE OCCUPATION FORCE AND PROMISES AN ANSWER ON MONDAY: WAS IT AN AMERICAN NAVAL SHIP WHICH HAS BEEN DETECTED ON THE FISHING GROUNDS OF ICELANDIC FISHING SHIPS OFF THE EAST COAST? ON 14 JUNE THE STERN TRAWLER BJARTUR FOULED ITS TRAWL ON A THICK CABLE, WHICH A SHIP, LIKELY AMERICAN, HAS BEEN LAYING IN THE SEA IN THE AREA. WE CALLED ON THE INFORMATION UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT

OF THE OCCUPATION FORCE AT KEFLAVIK AND INQUIRED WHETHER THEY WANTED OR COULD GIVE ANSWERS ON THE MOVEMENTS OF THIS SHIP. "POSSIBLY WE WILL HAVE TO CALL THE UNITED STATES TO GET INFORMATION OF THIS",

SAID AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT. THJODVILJINN THEN ASKED, WHY A TELEPHONE CALL HAD NOT BEEN MADE IMMEDIATELY AND THAT THE ANSWERS MIGHT THEN HAVE BEEN RECEIVED ALREADY. "WE ARE WORKING

ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS MATTER. WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE HERE THE

MEANS TO INVESTIGATE", SAID THE EMPLOYEE.(WE HAVE SOME SOURCES WE THINK MIGHT LEAD TO AN ANSWER"). WE ASKED WHAT THESE MEANS MIGHT BE

AND HOW THEY GO ABOUT FINDING OUT THE ORIGIN OF THE SUSPICIOUS SHIP WHICH IS LAYING A CABLE IN ICELAND'S TERRITORIAL WATERS.

"I CAN'T EXPLAIN THAT IN DETAIL", SAID THE INFORMATION DEPUTY OF THE GARRISON FORCE,"BUT I HOPE TO HAVE FOUND THE ANSWER WITHIN ONE OR TWO DAYS". AND WE SAID THAT WE WOULD CONTACT HIM NEXT MONDAY.

4. ALTHYDUBLADID 21 JUNE 1975 (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWSPAPER).

NO ONE IS WILLING TO ADMIT TO THE SUSPICIOUS SHIP: NOTHING IS YET KNOWN ABOUT THE NATIONALITY OF THE SHIP WHICH ALTHYDUBLADID REPORTED ON YESTERDAY AND THE ERRAND OF THIS SHIP TO ICELAND'S SHORES. IT IS CLEAR BY NOW THAT OTHER SHIPS WERE FISHING IN THE SAME AREA AS THE BJARTUR FROM NESKAUPSTADUR, ABOUT TWELVE MILES OFF STOKKSNES, WHEN A BIT OF A CABLE PARTED THE TRAWL OF THE SHIP ON 14 JUNE. AMONG THE FISHING SHIPS IN THE AREA WERE THE GULLBERG, VESTMANNAEY AND BRETTHINGUR. ALTHYDUBLADID CALLED YESTERDAY ON EYJOLFUR PETURSSON, CAPTAIN OF THE VESTMANNAEY AND ASKED HIM WHETHER HE HAD NOTICED A FOREIGN ORIGIN. THIS WAS A VERY LONG SHIP,

HAD A VERY LOW HULL AND A GREAT SUPERSTUCTURE. THE SHIP WAS PAINTED GRAY AND WAS VERY LARGE, COULD HAVE PICKED THE VESTMANNAEY UP IN DAVITS I SUPPOSE. BECAUSE OF HER LOOKS I THOUGHT AT FIRST THAT THIS WAS A WARSHIP. I THEN SAW THAT SHE HAD A SEPARATE FUNNEL WHICH GUSHED SMOKE IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN EXHAUST FOR STEAM TURBINES. THIS INDICATES THAT THE SHIP IS RATHER OLD, FRANKLY SHE LOOKED A LITTLE OLD. IN ADDITION THERE WERE A FEW TOWERS ON HER AND ON THE FRONT SOME KIND OF EQUIPMENT AND A PLATFORM. DESPITE THIS THE SHIP WAS QUITE SLEEK. THERE WERE NO IDENTIFICATION MARKINGS. AT FIRST I THOUGHT THE SHIP WAS LAYING A CABLE IN THE AREA. I FIND IT QUITE UNCLASSIFIED

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STRANGE THAT IN THIS AREA, WHICH ALWAYS HAS BEEN VERY CLEAN, WE ARE SUDDENLY LOSING OUR TRAWLS IN CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS", SAID EYJOLFUR AND HE ADDED THAT THE JON VIDALIN FROM THORLAKSHOFN HAD JUST RETURNED TO PORT WITH A RIPPED OR A DESTROYED TRAWL AFTER FISHING IN THE SAME AREA AS THE BJARTUR AND VESTMANNAEY. EYJOLFUR SAID HE WAS CONVINCED, THAT THIS WAS THE SAME SHIP HE SAW OFF SELVOGSTA IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR. WHEN ALTHYDUBLADID CALLED ON MAGNI KRISTJANSSON, CAPTAIN OF THE BJARTUR, YESTERDAY HE GAVE US THE SAME DESCRIPTION OF THE FRONT END OF THE SHIP AS EYJOLFUR DID AND IN ADDITION HE BELIEVED, THAT THE EQUIPMENT HE SAW ON BOARD THE SHIP WAS SIMILAR TO WHAT IS USED FOR LAYING A CABLE. MAGNI TOLD US THAT WHEN HE APPROACHED THIS SHIP, SHE HAD GIVEN SOUND SIGNALS, ONE LONG AND TWO SHORT. MAGNI SAID, THAT THE SIGNAL COULD MEAN ONE OF THREE THINGS ACCORDING TO MARITIME LAWS, ARTICLE SIXTEEN.

IN THE FIRST CASE THAT SHE HAD ANOTHER SHIP IN TOW. IN THE SECOND PLACE, THAT SHE WAS LAYING A SUBMARINE CABLE. IN THE THIRD PLACE THAT SHE WAS OUT OF CONTROL. MAGNI SAID THAT THE FIRST EXPLANATION DID NOT APPLY AS SHE DID NOT HAVE ANOTHER SHIP IN TOW. WE HAVE THE TWO OTHERS LEFT, HE SAID. MAGNI ADDED THAT WHEN HE CALLED ON THE COAST GUARD THEY HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THIS WAS A NAVY SHIP. WHEN ALTHYDUBLADID CALLED ON MARSHALL THAER, PRESS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEFENSE FORCE YESTERDAY, HE HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY ABOUT THIS MATTER: "I HAVE CHECKED REPORTS ON THE MOVEMENTS OF NAVY SHIPS AT THIS COUNTRY THROUGH THE PAST THREE MONTHS AND THESE DO NOT INDICATE ANY MOVEMENTS BY FOREIGN NAVY SHIPS AT THIS COUNTRY IN THIS PERIOD". ALTHYDUBLADID THEN CALLED ON MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS EINAR AGUSTSSON DUE TO THIS MATTER. HE HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY: "THIS HAS NOT REACHED ME YET BUT I SHALL HAVE THIS MATTER INVESTIGATED".
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